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1 **8. ABSTRACT**

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3 A monolithic O-plate optical compensator device, in accordance with the invention, comprises a

4 plurality of thin-film compensation layers which are deposited on a single substrate. As used herein, the

5 term "monolithic" is meant to imply that the O-plate and other thin-film compensator layers are formed by

6 depositing (e.g., via solvent casting or vacuum deposition) one layer on top of another layer; with or

7 without the use of surface modification treatments such as adhesion layers, alignment layers, and the like.